

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      DACCA 01002 161124Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
/026 W

-----040418 170054Z /66

R 160921Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8125  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1002

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, BG  
SUBJECT: CONTINUING CAMPUS POLITICAL ACTIVITY

REF: A. DACCA 0939(NOTAL; B DACCA 595

1. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON THE  
DACCA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS HAS INTENSIFIED AS STUDENTS OF THE  
CHATTRA LEAGUE (AWAMI LEAGUE FACTION) MEET IN A  
CONFERENCE TO DECIDE POLICY AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES  
DIVIDING THE FRONT. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM MOST  
OF THE MAJOR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AND HUNDREDS OF THEIR  
SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN MEETING AND SEEM ALMOST EVENLY  
DIVIDED IN THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP QUESTION OF  
THE PARENT AWAMI LEAGUE, ALTHOUGH REPORTS INDICATE THAT  
BEGUM TAJUDDIN'S FACTION IS GAINING SIGNIFICANT  
SUPPORT. SHE HAS MET FREQUENTLY WITH THE STUDENTS.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE, THERE IS DEBATE  
ON THE PROPER CHATTRA LEAGUE STANCE TOWARD PRESIDENT ZIA'S  
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NEW PARTY AND HIS PROPOSALS FOR A NEW PRESIDENTIAL CON-  
STITUTION. AT ISSUE IS THE DEGREE OF OPPOSITION,  
I.E., WHETHER TO TAKE OUT STUDENT PROCESSIONS OR WHETHER TO  
CONTINUE ORGANIZING AND WAIT FOR THE PUBLICATION OF ZIA'S  
SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

3. AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE CONFERENCE TOLD POLOFF

THAT THE ISSUES ARE PROBABLY IRRECONCILABLE AND A CHATTRA LEAGUE SPLIT MAY BE INEVITABLE. IF THAT HAPPENS, THE BAKSAL-INFLUENCED FACTION (THE MUJIBADIS) MAY HOLD THE FIRST STUDENT DEMONSTRATION ON MARCH 7, THE ANNIVERSARY OF A MAJOR SPEECH BY SHEIKH MUJIB IN 1971. (ON FEBRUARY 16, DEPUTY HOME ADVISOR TOLD POLCOUNSELOR THAT HE HAD INFORMED STUDENTS THAT HE WOULD PERMIT PROCESSIONS AND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS BUT THAT IF THESE TURNED TO VIOLENCE OR "ANTI-STATE" ACTIONS HE WOULD USE FULL POLICE POWER TO HALT THEM).

4. AS THE MUJIBADI CHATTRA LEAGUE MEETS, OTHER STUDENT GROUPS CONTINUE TO PLASTER THE CAMPUS WITH POSTERS. THE JSD CHATTRA LEAGUE DEMANDS THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY SERAJUL ALAM KHAN, FIFTY OR SO STUDENTS BRIEFLY MARCHED AROUND THE CAMPUS RECENTLY TO SUPPORT ZIA'S NEW PARTY BUT DISPERSED IN THE FACE OF WIDESPREAD STUDENT ANTIPARTY.

5. COMMENT: THE AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERSHIP SHOWDOWN HAS BEEN PUT OFF FREQUENTLY BY THE PARTY SENIORS, BUT IT MAY BE THAT A DECISION WILL BE FORCED BY BEGUM TAJUDDIN THROUGH HER STUDENT PROXIES. AND IF THE STUDENT FRONT SPLITS, IT WILL BE BECAUSE BEGUM TAJUDDIN HAS GAINED THE UPPER HAND, BOTH IN THE STUDENT FRONT AND IN THE SENIOR RANKS.

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BERGESEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
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